

MR. E. G. SALTER : These have proved a success beyond my wildest hopes.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know whether it is the intention of Government to replace all the petrol driven buses by charcoal gas driven buses?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, Sir.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know how many petrol driven buses can be converted into charcoal gas driven buses in one year?

MR. E. G. SALTER : That depends upon the number of staff engaged and the facilities available for carrying on the work. It is hoped to carry out conversions at the rate of 2 per week.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know whether this experiment has been tried in Madras three years ago?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT : There are about 300 buses running in Madras on charcoal gas.

Bridges at Poothotta and Murinjapuzha.

226. * **MR. K. R. NARAYANAN :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the P. W. D. Advisory Committee who toured the Alwaye P. W. Division during 1115 and 1116 have in the report submitted by them, brought to the notice of Government the urgent necessity for the construction of bridges at Poothotta and Murinjapuzha?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : Yes.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : പുത്തോട്ടയിലേയും മുറിഞ്ഞ പുഴയിലേയും പാലങ്ങൾ മേജർ പാലങ്ങളല്ലേ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : അതേ.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : അത് അർജൻസി ക്ലാസിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ നിന്നും തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടില്ലേ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : അർജൻസി ക്ലാസിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല; പാലങ്ങളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഈ രണ്ടു പാലങ്ങളും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : പുത്തോട്ടപാലത്തിന് എപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും എസ്റ്റിമേറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല.

State Transport Department.

227. * **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a caste-war statement of the Conductors and Inspectors of the State Transport Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Since the Transport Department is a commercial organisation communal representation is not insisted on.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I inform the honourable member that I was not insisting on communal representation but only asking information *viz.*, the caste war statement of appointments in the Transport Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Sir, the time and labour involved in furnishing the statement is not commensurate with public interests.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : Then, may I know why it was not stated in the printed answer itself?

MR. E. G. SALTER : I have no answer.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : I rise to a point of order. The question asked here was to lay on the table a caste-war statement of the conductors and Inspectors of the Transport Department and the answer is that since the Transport Department is a commercial organisation, communal representation is not insisted on. That was not what I wanted; nor was it the purpose of the question.

PRESIDENT : Evidently the question stopped short of asking why certain communities were not adequately represented. The answer, as I suppose, was a little previous, as the Americans say. But the proper answer should have been and would be that the time and labour involved is out all proportion to its probable utility. I think that would have been a proper answer and such answers would be given in future.

MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH : What is the total number of employees in the Transport Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER : I have not got the exact information Sir, but I can say that it is in the region of 750.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : May I know whether there is a principle to appoint Conductors and Inspectors from those who were already in the line which has been taken up by Government?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, provided that their academic qualifications befitted them for the post.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : May I know the number of Conductors and Inspectors in the Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER : I cannot give the exact information, but I think that the number of Conductors will be about 234 and that of the Inspectors will be 45. This is subject to confirmation.

Waiting shed in the State Transport Garage at Quilon.

228. * **MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to their notice that the waiting shed in the State Transport Garage at Quilon is not at all sufficient for the purpose for which it is intended;